

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /062 W
-----140944Z 111580 /11
R 130903Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3971

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3016

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ET, MILI, PINS
SUBJ: BITS & PIECES

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 1106, B. ADDIS ABABA 1199,
C. ADDIS ABABA 2927, D. ADDIS ABABA 2900

1. MAY 12 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED DEATH AND BURIAL
CEREMONY OF BG BAHRU TUFFA, COMMANDER OF
ETHIOPIAN GROUND FORCES. BURIAL CEREMONY ATTENDED BY
PMAC VICE-CHAIRMAN, LTCOL ATNAFU ABATE, OTHER PMAC
MEMBERS, SENIOR OFFICIALS OF ARMED FORCES, AND POLICE AND
GOVT OFFICIALS. EULOGY READ BY MAJ. GEN.
GIZAW BELAYNEH, ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF. AS REPORTED
BY DAO, BG BAHRU DIED FROM STOMACH CANCER.

2. IN CONTINUING MEDIA COVERAGE OF SEARCH CAMPAIGN,
"OPERATION LEADER" ALLEGED 3,000 RIFLES AND PISTOLS,
NEARLY 200 FIELD GLASSES, THOUSANDS OF ROUNDS OF
AMMO, LARGE QUANTITIES COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY
PAMPHLETS, AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SEIZED. IN
RELATED DEVELOPMENT, ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED CAPT
AMHA ABEBE, CADRE INSTRUCTOR AND INSTRUCTOR AT
POLITICAL IDEOLOGY SCHOOL, WHO WANTED SINCE LAST
FEB (REF A), KEBELE CHAIRMAN DAMTACHEW AYELE,
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AND TWO OF THEIR ACCOMPLICES KILLED SUNDAY DURING
SHOOT-OUT WITH SECURITY FORCES. THIS APPEARS OFFICIAL
EXPLANATION FOR INTENSIVE GUNFIRE EVENING MAY 8
(REF D). INVESTIGATION TEAM SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED
LARGE CACHE OF ARMS, VARIOUS EPRP PAMPHLETS, SEALS,
WEEKLY AND MONTHLY REPORTS, AND PORTION OF MONEY
ROBBED FROM ADDIS BANK PAST FEB RECOVERED FROM

DAMTACHEW RESIDENCE.

3. IT ALSO BRIEFLY REPORTED ABBA WOLDE-MARIAM TESFA-GHIOGHIS, HEAD OF ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, DESSIE (WOLLO PROVINCE) ASSASSINATED BY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ANARCHISTS MAY 6. ABBA WOLDE-MARIAM HAILED FOR ROLE IN ALLEVIATING SUFFERING OF DROUGHT VICTIMS IN COOPERATION WITH RELIEF & REHABILITATION COMMISSION.

4. CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF HARARGHE, BALE, AND ARSSI REGIONS, COMMANDERS OF 3RD AND 4TH ARMY DIVISIONS, AS WELL AS CHIEF POLICE COMMISSIONERS OF THREE REGIONS, MET MAY 9 TO ADOPT JOINT DECLARATION FOR CONCERTED ACTION TO CRUSH ENEMIES OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. CONCURRENTLY, PEOPLE'S MILITIA OF THOSE THREE REGIONS PLUS SIDAMO REGION, DECIDED TO JOIN MEN-IN-UNIFORM IN MAJOR SEARCH CAMPAIGN FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES AND TO CHECK MOVEMENTS OF INFILTRATORS INTO FOUR REGIONS.

5. COMMENT: OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR MAY 8 GUNBATTLES PROBABLY ACCURATE AS FAR AS IT GOES, BUT INSUFFICIENT TO EXPLAIN TOTALITY OF EVENING'S EVENTS. MEETING OF HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL OFFICIALS FROM SOUTH AND SOUTHEASTERN REGIONS CONTINUING INDICATION OF EXTENT OF "INFILTRATION" PROBLEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS03016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770170-0930
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770564/aaaaccji.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f883895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 1106, 77 ADDIS ABABA 1199, 77 ADDIS ABABA 2927, 77 ADDIS ABABA 2900
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2543868
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BITS & PIECES
TAGS: MILI, PINS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f883895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009